

T W O

S E R M O N S

T O

Y O U N G P E O P L E,

O N T H E

Importance of PIETY.

By ELAM POTTER, *A. M.*
PASTOR of a CHURCH of CHRIST in ENFIELD.

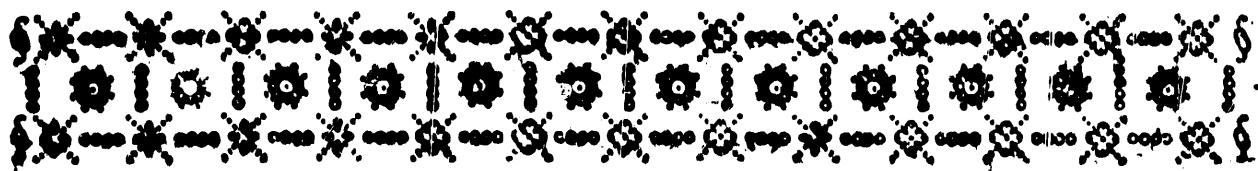
B O S T O N, N E W - E N G L A N D :

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1771

DEDICATION.



To

YOUNG PEOPLE.

DEAR YOUTH,

I AM come as a faithful, tho'
an unworthy Ambassador
from the King of Kings, to
treat with you about your pre-
cious Souls, which you know
must be saved or lost to all
Eternity.

IF any are pleased to enquire after my Commission, it is with equal Freedom and Confidence I produce it : Our risen and now ascended LORD says, *Go ye into all the World, and preach the Gospel to every Creature : He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved ; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.*

THE Lord Jesus Christ has been sending forth his Servants and gathering in his Saints, for many Ages ; and he hath already collected a glorious Body out of the Ruins of the Apostacy,—most of whom are now in Glory ; and those behind are travelling thither.

BUT,

BUT, as Heaven is not yet full, Christ is still gathering in more, in one Place and in another, and some he is gathering out of our own Age : And as soon as he hath gathered the Children of God into his own Kingdom, he will set the World on Fire ; and all the Wicked shall be turned into Hell.

Now therefore and attend in this your Day to the Things that belong to your Peace, lest they shall soon be hid from your Eyes ; now is your best Time, your Hearts are tender, there are much greater Hopes of your being converted now, than after you are thirty or forty Years old. WE

WE find it hard for young People to be converted; but it is much harder for old People; and for old People, who have been settled down upon a false Hope, it seems next to impossible, though such Miracles of Grace sometimes appear.

CONSIDERING the Danger that this may be the awful Case with many of you, I desire now to join with my Rev'd and faithful Fathers and Brethren in the Ministry to make one serious Effort with you, before your golden Season of Youth is past.

IT is to you, My Fellow Youth, I humbly inscribe these
two

DEDICATION. v

two Discourses, on the Importance of Piety.—As there are many Mistakes in the World, and many Thousands destroyed by them, you will be wise to look to yourselves that you be not deceived in this infinitely important Affair of Salvation.

IF you are faithful to your own Souls you will ever bear in Mind that nothing short of being made new Creatures can, in any measure, fit a Person for them blisful Regions above, where Thousands of Angels and Saints are now singing sweet Hallelujahs to God and the Lamb : For which glorious Place, and for which happy Employment that
we

vi *D E D I C A T I O N.*

we may be prepared, is the
earnest Prayer of,

Courteous Reader,

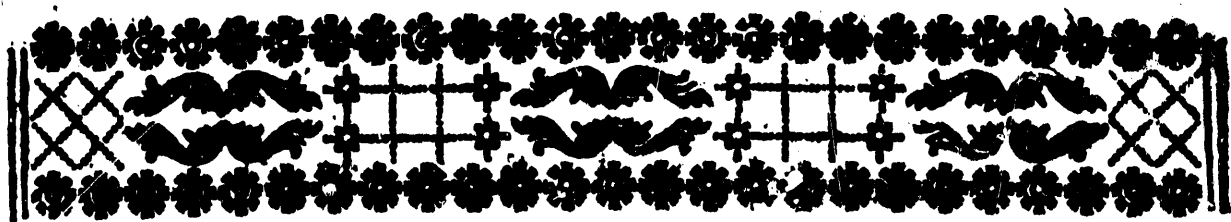
thy Faithful Servant,

for Jesus Christ's Sake,

ELAM POTTER.

ENFIELD,
April, 1771.





S E R M O N I.

The Importance of PIETY.

J O H N, III. 3.

*Verily, verily, I say unto Thee, except
a Man be born again, he cannot see
the Kingdom of God.*

WHAT our glorious Lord said to *Nicodemus*,
he says to every Person, and that with
unusual Solemnity : “ Verily, verily, I
“ say unto Thee, such is the sinful State of fallen
“ Man that unless he is born again, and becomes a
“ new Creature, he cannot enjoy the Benefits of the
“ Messiah’s Kingdom. ”

B

To

To be born again is a supernatural Change wrought upon the Soul by the Operations of God's Spirit ; whereby a Person is brought out of the Kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God.

By the Kingdom of God, we must understand the same that, in many Places, is called the Kingdom of Heaven ; it means the Kingdom of Grace here, the Kingdom of Glory hereafter, and all the Blessedness that belongs to each.

By not seeing this Kingdom, means to be denied all part in the Glory and Blessedness of it.

MY FRIENDS, We have here the Importance of
REGENERATION.

MANY Ages have proved that this Doctrine is very humbling to the Pride of natural Men ; and therefore many in the World have altogether misrepresented it ; and others have thought it a Point of mere Speculation, and not worthy of serious Enquiry.— But our blessed Lord and his Apostles and Prophets gave their fullest Testimony to the Importance of it. St. John, speaking of those that received Christ, says. They were born of God. St. Paul says, If any Man be in Christ, he is a new Creature. St. Peter also, describes the Saints as being born again. Moses, speaking of the same Thing, says, the Lord thy God will circumcise thine Heart, and the Heart of thy Seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine Heart, and with all thy Soul, that thou mayest live. We read the same in Ezekiel : God says, A new Heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you, and cause you to walk in my Statutes.

BUT

BUT the Person that can see nothing in Heaven more charming to his Taste than all the Delights of the World, ought to read the Importance of this Doctrine in his own Heart.

REGENERATION is the began Restoration of a Principle of Holiness in the Heart of the depraved Creature; and this is effected by the supernatural Influences of the Holy Spirit.

OUR Lord, just before his Departure, was graciously pleased not only to promise the Gift of the Holy Ghost, but also to intimate in what Manner he should operate on the Hearts of those, who, through Grace, should be translated from the Kingdom of Satan to his own Kingdom of Grace and Glory.

He says, He shall reprove, or as it may properly be render'd, he shall convince the World of Sin, of Righteousness and of Judgment. *John* 16. 8. Usually, the Holy Spirit first convinces Men of some of their most heinous actual Sins : This seems to have been the Case with *David*, in the Matter of *Uriah*. And usually, after Men have been made sensible of their most aggravated Sins, they are lead to a Sense of many other Sins, which before, they thought little about ; and these some times increase, till they appear like a mighty Army, all marshal'd in dreadful Array against the poor defenceless Soul.

How was it in the Days of Pentecost, when our Lord's Promises was in part fulfilled, when the Holy Spirit came down as a mighty rushing Wind and filled all the Place where the Apostles were sitting, and their Word being cloathed with divine Power, reached not only the Ears but the Hearts of Sinners ?

Then the Jews were pricked in their Heart, and from a deep Sense of their Guilt, in crucifying the Lord of Glory, and from a Sense of Sins in general, they cry out, in Soul-distress, *What shall we do ?* And the inspired Apostles were so far from deeming this Enthusiasm, that they most cordially approved and rejoiced in the Work of God.

THE Holy Spirit also convinces Men of the heinous Nature of Sins of Omission : These Men commonly think little of ; as though the final Doom of the Wicked was not predicated upon them : But the Holy Spirit convinces Men of many Omissions of Duty, and often leads them to see, that they deserve to be damned for the Sin that attends the best Work that they ever performed, in their Lives : And He brings them to see more or less the evil Source and Fountain of Sin, that is within them. Methinks I hear them frankly acknowledge with *David*, and say, Lord, I was born in Sin, and shapen in Iniquity : And sometimes, struggling with innate Corruption, they say, with *Paul*, O wretched Man that I am, who shall deliver me from this Body of Death ?

BUT over and above all I have mentioned, the Holy Spirit usually convinces Men of that most heinous and aggravated Sin of Unbelief, which they commonly think little about. Our Lord says, He shall convince the World of Sin, because they believe not on me.

METHINKS I hear one, in his Retirement, bemoaning himself, and saying with the Leper, Unclean ! unclean ! I am all polluted with Sin ! and perhaps in a manner that he never did before, he smites upon his Breast

Breast, with this humble Petition ; God, be merciful to me a Sinner ! One says, O my Sins ! how can I bear their heavy and insupportable Burden ? like Mountains they are pressing me down to Hell ! O how shall I escape the Damnation of Hell ? How shall I escape the Wrath of a Sin-avenging God ? Can I endure them Flames ? Can I endure that Lake that burns with Fire and Brimstone, to all Eternity ? Lord, have mercy on me ! I deserve to perish ! But this he resolves ; If I perish, I will perish crying for Mercy, at the Foot of Jesus.

In the mean Time, the Holy Spirit convinces him of Righteousness ;—That by the Deeds of the Law no Flesh can be justified,—that his best Righteousness is as filthy Rags : And hence he despairs of all Hope in himself, nor does the Holy Spirit leave him to perish in this Condition ; but he shews him that perfect Righteousness that Jesus Christ hath compleated, and in Testimony thereof, is now ascended to the Father. And now the Creature seeing that this is the Way, and that there is no other, he ventures his Soul upon Jesus Christ, and rejoices in this Way of Salvation, as infinitely glorious !

In the mean Time, the Holy Spirit also convinces him of Judgment ; That Christ has, not only, vanquished Satan, the Head of the grand Apostacy, but that he will, in the awful and glorious Day, judge and condemn all the Wicked, with him, to everlasting Perdition, as well as invite and receive all his Saints into his eternal Kingdom of Glory.

BUT far be it from me to say there is any one precise Method of the Holy Spirit's Operation : There is

a Variety as I shall hereafter observe. If such be the Operations of God's Spirit on the Hearts of those who are translated from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, then what is the Condition of those who are utter Strangers thereto, and to all the blessed Consequences ? Alas, how awfully apparent is this the Condition of the greatest Part of the rising Generation !

MY FELLOW YOUTH, It is Matter of sore Lamentation, that the most of you appear to live without God in the World ! Well may the Lord say, Hear, O Heavens, and give Ear, O Earth ; I have nourished and brought up Children, and they have rebelled against me. It is apparently the Character of the most of you, that you are utter Strangers to that important Change of Regeneration, that our Saviour expressly insists upon ; and if you die in this unregenerate State, you must be forever excluded the Blessings of his Kingdom. O how dreadful will that be ! Now you are the Mark that God has set up, and all his Woes are pointed at you ! not one Promise for you ! but God is everywhere threatening to destroy you ; His Patience is only waiting on you, a little while, to see if you will repent and turn unto Him ; but if you turn not speedily, he will soon begin to execute his fierce Wrath upon you, as he has done upon many who were less Sinners than you ; they are now roaring in Hell ; and expect, every Moment, when you will come to join their miserable Number, that you may mutually inhance each other's Torments.

BUT tell me, tell me, O my young Friends, can you dwell with devouring Fire ? Can you dwell with everlasting Burnings ? Can you make your Bed in Hell ?

Hell ? Can you lie down in the Lake that burns with Fire and Brimstone, and be wrapped in Sheets of Flame ? Can you drink the Cup of Jehovah's Wrath ? Can you endure the eternal Storm of his Vengeance ? Can you howl and roar with Devils to all Eternity ? Surely, if you die Unregenerate, you must. This shall ye have at my Hand, saith the Lord, ye shall lie down in Sorrow. And what kind of Sorrows will these be ? no Sorrows like the Sorrows of the Damned, who sorrow without Hope ! There God will pour out the full Vials of his Wrath upon you ; but what will this Wrath be ? It will be the Wrath of Almighty God ; such Wrath as an omnipotent Jehovah is able to inflict ! Think, O think, what was his Wrath upon the old World,—upon Sodom—upon Egypt—upon the Troops of Korah—upon Dathan and Abiram ? and what was his Wrath upon his own Son, for your Sakes ? And what do you think it will be upon you who despise and crucify afresh the dear Lamb of God ? Is not the Lord saying to you as he said to Sinners of Old, I will tread you in mine Anger, and will trample you in my Fury, and your Blood shall be sprinkled upon my Garments, and I will stain all my Raiment ?—To you, he says, Can thine Heart endure, or can thine Hands be strong, in the Days that I shall deal with thee ? If I whet my glittering Sword, and mine Hand take hold on Judgment, I will render Vengeance to mine Enemies, and Reward them that hate me.

O SINNERS, what will you do in the Hour of Death, that you have made no Preparation for ? How will you be able to meet the King of Terrors ? How will you quake and tremble when Devils, like Lions, shall be seen to fall upon your guilty Souls, and drag them down

down to Hell!—O whither can you fly? God says, If they dig into Hell, thence shall my Hand take them, though they climb up to Heaven, thence will I bring them down, and though they hide themselves in the Tops of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my Sight in the bottom of the Sea, thence will I command the Serpent, and he shall bite them.

THINK, O my young Friends, think on this awful Scene, how dreadful will it be for you in the general Judgment! When the Lord Jesus Christ shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty Angels, in flaming Fire, taking Vengeance on you that obey not the Gospel, who must be punished with everlasting Destruction from the Presence of the Lord and from the Glory of his Power: Then Wrath shall go forth as Lightning from the Presence of the Almighty, and blast his Enemies to Destruction; and the immense Glory of his Power shall be displayed in their Ruin.

How will you tremble when that meek and compassionate Lamb of God, whom you have rejected, shall say to his Angels, Bring hither those mine Enemies, and slay them before me? What amazing Horrors will seize you when this enthroned Judge shall say, Hence! Depart from me, ye Cursed, into everlasting Fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels! How will you wail and lament to see the dear Saints ascending ~~on~~ high to the Mansions of Bliss, but yourselves descending down to the fiery Coasts of Hell, there to spend a long and an endless Eternity in cursing that Folly that now despises this Rebuke.

O METHINKS I shall then hear one and another pray that never prayed before, saying, Come, O ye Mountains and Rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the Face of him that sitteth on the Throne and from the Wrath of the Lamb, for the Great Day of his Wrath is come.

O yE Saints, methinks I hear some of your Lamentations over these poor Souls, saying, “Alas, Alas, “ what shall be done ! We live in a perishing World, “ Thousands around us, and most of our precious “ Youth, seem to be going to Destruction. And “ when we warn them of it, we seem as Men that “ mock,—They are going down to endless Ruin ! “ and we cannot stop them, they will not be stopped ! “ We have exerted all our Powers, but they will not “ hear us,—we have called and are weary,—all our “ Attempts are in vain, if God does not help.—O “ how shall we give up our dear Friends whom we “ see travelling in the downward Road ? O that we “ could die for them, as Christ died for us ! If it were “ possible we could venture after them, down to the “ Gates of Hell to prevent their Ruin.—We have “ prayed for them ! we have counselled them ! we “ have pleaded with them ! we have wept over them ! “ our Eyes have run down with Waters ; and we “ could yet weep Rivers of Tears for them ! O the “ Worth of their immortal Souls ! It is their all ! “ and what will it be for these Souls to be lost ! O “ dear Hearts, how can we endure to see you roaring “ in them Flames, and the Devils tormenting you ! “ but God will enable us to do it, and if you perish “ we shall glorify him to all Eternity, and sing sweet “ Hallelujahs in your Damnation. But has nothing “ been done to rescue these immortal Souls ? Yes
C “ much

“ much infinitely much has been done ! the dear
 “ Lamb of God has been slain ! but they will not
 “ accept of Him. Christ sheds his richest Blood for
 “ them ! He weeps over them ! he groaned in Ago-
 “ nies for them ! He holds forth the Arms of his
 “ Mercy to receive them, but Lord, they will not
 “ come ! O shall nothing, shall nothing but the
 “ Sight of Ruin and the Out cries of the Damned
 “ awaken their Consciences ? Shall nothing but Hell’s
 “ hottest Flames melt their hard Hearts ? O blessed
 “ Jesus, may thy Mercy, even thy Mercy, that has
 “ reached us, thy most unworthy Creatures, reach
 “ them also ! ”

Now, precious Youth, can you hear these Lamen-
 tations of God’s People over you, and yet you make
 no Lamentation over yourselves ? You say, why
 need we be so much concerned about you ?—But I
 say, how can you be so little concerned about your-
 selves ? Are your Souls of no Consequence ? Will you
 damn them for a little Pleasure ? What Good do you
 think past Pleasures will do you when God shall throw
 you, Soul and Body, into the Flames of Hell ?
 Though you sleep in Security, yet your Damnation
 slumbereth not.—May God by his Spirit quicken you,
 and enable you to fly immediately to Jesus Christ,
 who is an allsufficient Saviour !

A M E N.



S E R M O N

The Importance of PIETY.

*Verily, verily, I say unto Thee, except
a Man be born again, he cannot see
the Kingdom of God.*

CAN it be inferred from these Words, that REGENERATION is a small Change ?— I would rather think with St. Paul, that, *If any Man be in Christ, he is a new Creature.* The Soul being enlightned by God's Spirit, as we before observed, has new Views of the unspeakable Glory and Majesty of God.—He has new Views of the Amiability of Jesus Christ, he appears to him the Chiefest among ten Thousands, and one infinitely lovely. And the Things of Eternity appear of the utmost Importance.—Now he has new Views of the Glories of Heaven, and of the

C 2

Employment

Employment of that Place, beyond any Thing that he ever before conceived.—Now he rejoices to think of spending a glorious Eternity in the Praises of God.—Now he has new Ideas of Faith and Repentance ; he finds more Pleasure in repenting than ever he did in sinning ; and in believing he rejoices, with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory.—The Saints now appear to him the most excellent Ones in all the Earth ; and he feels strong Desires for the Salvation of perishing Souls around him. Now the Enjoyment of God, and Obedience to his Laws become his highest Delight.—Now all the Glory and Grandeur of the World appears as mean and contemptible as the Dust under his Feet ; He is ready to say, O ! if I had ten Thousand such Worlds, I would throw them all away, as Dross, that I might win Christ.

SOMETIMES, the young Convert thinks Sin and all his Foes are slain, till by'm by he finds that he is just entering the Field of Battle, and is only girding on his Harness for War ; and though he meets Opposition, yet he has no desire to return to Egypt ; but is fully determined, in the Strength of the Lord, to fight his Way to Canaan's Land.

Thus he that is born again has new Views, new Affections, new Travels, new Delights, new Conflicts, and new Resolutions, and new Hopes of blessed Immortality !

SOME are under greater and longer Terrors than others ; some are healed almost as soon as they are wounded ; which seems to have been the Case with *Peter's* Hearers, when the Work of God was very extraordinary.

IN some the divine Light breaks in like the Sun, at Noon-Day ; in others, their Light is gradual, like the gentle Dawn of the Morning. Some are on a sudden brought out of the deepest Concern into full and substantial Joys ; others feel their Burden gone, and their Souls resting, as it were, in the dear Bosom of a Saviour. Sometimes after they have lost their first Comfort, the Devil roars against them, and they are afflicted with most gloomy Fears.

IN some their Hope is more constant and abiding, in others it is oftener interrupted with Fears ; but still they maintain an unshaken Resolution, that they will follow on to know the Lord.

MANY adult Saints are able to relate the Time when they were first brought out of Darkness into marvellous Light. Methinks I hear one saying, O ! blessed be God for such a Day ; it was a Day of Salvation to my Soul ; it was the Day of my Espousals to the Lord Jesus Christ. Another says, Blessed be God for such a Week, or for such a Month, in that Time I trust, thro' infinite free Grace, I was savingly brought home to God.

BUT some cannot tell the particular Time when they were first made alive to God ; yet my Brethren, if you find that the Work of God is done, that you have the Principles of the new Creature prevailing in you, then you may go on your Way, rejoicing in the Lord.

AND whenever Persons have been regenerated in their Infancy, the Marks of the new Creature will soon appear, and they will enjoy those Exercises of Grace that are common to all God's Saints.

BUT

BUT it seems that Youth is the Season, in which, the Lord Jesus Christ gathers in the greatest Part of his Elect. It is awful to see how many, who pass that Season, live and die the Monuments of divine Wrath !

O TAKE Warning, my young Friends, now is the Time ; improve the present Opportunity, before your Hearts are hardened in Sin.

MARVELLOUS are the Occasions that the Holy Spirit makes use of in bringing in the Saints. Many are wrought upon by the Word, either read or heard it follows them trembling to their Closets.

SOMETIMES Ordinances and Prayer have been owned of God and blessed for this Purpose.

WE have reason to think that in Baptism, God is sometimes graciously pleased to perform the Thing that is signified by it ; and to the external Washing with Water, he adds the internal Purification of the Soul, by his Spirit ; this is to be born of the Water and of the Spirit.

PROVIDENCES the Holy Spirit often improves for this glorious End. God calls upon Men by Health and Prosperity to repent and turn to him ; and he calls repeatedly, but they will not hear ; they do not seem to know that God is calling them to Repentance by every Mercy ; they do not hear his Voice. But God says, I will call once more by the louder Voice of Affliction ; I will throw them down upon a sick Bed, and rack them with Pain, and shake them over the Flames of Hell, and there I will teach them their Sins :

Sins : This is the Way that infinite Grace sometimes uses. But alas ! how many awful Instances have we, wherein Sickness and Affliction leave Persons worse than it found them : In such Cases Men often ripen apace for Damnation.

SOMETIMES a Word dropped, in Conversation, has proved a Word in Season to a poor Soul.

AGAIN, when the most powerful Means have been unsuccessful, even then God has made some little Incident prove effectual for this grand Purpose.

THUS wonderful is the Method of the Holy Spirit's Operation on the Hearts of those who are regenerated, and brought out of the Kingdom of Satan, into the glorious Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Now what shall I say, once more, to you that are Unregenerate ? Poor Hearts, you are going to Hell sure enough ! If you continue in your present State, a little longer, there will soon be no Help for you.

You have some Hopes of being happy in the other World ; but you don't know how nor where : You have heard that Heaven is a glorious Place ; and so it is, but to who ? to those only who have had Heaven begun in their Hearts upon Earth.

If Heaven was a gay Entertainment, suited to every carnal Desire, you would die Martyrs for it ; but in your present State it would be worse to you than a Prison if you were there.

SUPPOSE

SUPPOSE, like *Elijah*, you might be instantly translated to Heaven, in a fiery Chariot ;—how long would it be before you would pine to come back again ? There are no sensual Delights to feed your poor carnal Appetites :—There the Enjoyment of God is their sublimest Happiness, and continual Praises are their most delightful Employment ; but such Happiness you have no Delight in, and how soon does such Employment now become your Burden ?

O YE prayerless, unconverted Souls, let this Truth ring like Peals of Thunder in your Ears ; you must be born again, or you must be eternally damned.—Nothing will avail in Christ but a new Creature ; and without Holiness no Man shall see the Lord.

CAN you rest secure in this Condition ? O think of *Dives*, that poor unhappy Wretch,—can you bear to lift up your Eyes with him in eternal Torments, and behold Salvation from afar, but yourselves denied a Drop of Water to cool your flaming Tongues ?

O HEARKEN, my Friends, hearken to the loud Calls of God, he is even now calling to you and saying, Come now, ye Sinners, let us reason together ; though your Sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as Snow, though they be red like Crimson they shall be as Wool.—As I live, saith the Lord, I have no Pleasure in the Death of the Wicked, but that the Wicked turn from his Way and live : Turn ye, turn ye, from your evil Ways ; for why will ye die ? O Youths of *New-England*, turn unto the Lord, and he will have Mercy upon you, and to our God for he will abundantly pardon. God's Hand is not shortned that it cannot save, neither is his Ear deaf that it cannot hear, but to this Day he is stretching out his Hand and waiting for your Return. O

O CONSIDER the amazing Love of Jesus Christ, and let him melt your Hearts into love to him. He that from Eternity had been happy in his Father's Bosom did in Time come into the World to seek and save the Chief of Sinners. O what Agonies did he endure from the Manger to the Cross? O hear the Groans of Calvary, and behold the bleeding, dying Lamb of God on the Tree! O wonderful Sight! Angels stand astonished to behold! Come Sinners, come to Calvary's Hill! Come up to the Cross, behold this Lamb of God nailed upon it! See his Nail-pierc'd Hands and Feet! Behold that fresh-running Blood; see how it trickles down his sacred Body! and hear the Call, the glorious Call it bears! The Blood of Abel called for Vengeance, but this calls for Mercy! O methinks we hear that Call going forth from a dying Saviour on the Cross, Look unto me all ye Ends of the Earth and be ye saved, for I am God, and there is none else! My Blood that you see is sufficient to wash away all your Sins: And now he says, why will ye die, since I have died that you may live? Must you and I both die? Is not my Heart's Blood sufficient for you? O Sinners, how often would Christ have gathered you as an Hen gathers her Chickens under her Wings, and ye would not! O Youths, let these Sufferings, these Calls melt your young and tender Hearts into Love and Obedience to the King of Kings. Receive him, by Faith, for your Saviour and Portion forever submit to all his Laws; depend upon him for every Supply of Grace; and, in a Way of Duty, depend upon him for every Comfort you need in Life: And so you shall become the Sons of God, and be entitled to all the Benefits of his Kingdom.

O! AVOID the Vanities of Youth, reclaim or forsake your wicked Companions; and return no more into the evil Ways of the World.

I do solemnly invite you, the Rising Generation, to come away and join the Saints, and set out with them for the upper World. There is no solid Comfort here; no Peace can we find; it is a Place of Tribulations and Sorrows: Why shall we make it our Home? No, come join the travelling Saints, set out for Heaven's Canaan, for the New-Jerusalem, for a City built by God, where unseen Glories dwell! Thither the Lord Jesus Christ is now gone to prepare Mansions for all his Saints; and he is now gathering in his People, and is leading on his militant Care till finally he will bring them all to be seated down with him in Glory!

WHAT Objection have you? Is there a beloved Sin that you are not willing to part with? O pluck out that right Eye, cut off that right Hand, cast them from you,—better go to Heaven without them, than go to Hell with them,—part with Sin, or part with Life; one or to'ther, you must. Is it not Time to part with Sin, when the Wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all Unrighteousness?

Do any of you fear the Frown and Mock of wicked People? O say, which is worst, to endure the Frowns of Satan's Advocates, or the Frowns of Him who is able to cast both Soul and Body into Hell forever? Can wicked Men stand up and plead for you in the Day of Judgment? Will they deliver your Souls out of Hell? or will they be your Tormentors to all Eternity?

ARE

ARE you unwilling to lose a little of your worldly Interest, ~~that~~ you may win the Kingdom of Heaven? O say, What will it profit you if you gain the whole World and lose your own Souls? Can all the World purchase an Interest in Jesus Christ, at the Day of Judgment? He will then burn it up; and the Wicked shall be like dry Stubble before his Wrath!

ARE you unwilling to come now? Had you rather put it off till another Opportunity? O remember the young Man that went away from our Lord; did you ever read any Account that he returned again? No; and it is greatly to be feared that this will be the Case with you, if you let slip the present Opportunity. God was offended with those that consecrated the Blind and the Lame of the Flock to him, in their Offerings; and so he will be offended with you, if you will not consecrate your youthful Vigour to his Service: God is now saying to you, My Son, my Daughter, give me thine Heart. Hear that sweet Encouragement of our Lord; *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, and all these Things shall be added unto you.*

BUT what do you say? We are going to part: Are you willing to come to Christ?—to receive Him into your Hearts? Are you willing to ~~make~~ ~~take~~ the Vanities of this lower World, and to enlist under the Banner of King Jesus, and so join the Number of his Saints upon Earth, and set out for Heaven? If so, then in the Name of Him that hath purchased it, all Blessedness in Heaven and in Earth is your's!

THOSE who have, for some Time past, solemnly consecrated yourselves to the Lord, will ascribe all
 Glory

Glory and Praise to Him who, of his own free Grace, worketh in us to will and to do of his own good Pleasure. O quit yourselves, be strong in the Lord, play the Man for Christ Jesus! Crowns immortal await you above!

Now my dear young Friends, I leave you; may the Lord be with you.

A. WORD to your Parents.

MY WORTHY FRIENDS, I have been speaking to those whom God has given to your special Care. Such of you as are acquainted with the divine Life, and have chosen Christ for your Portion, I hope will join your own Advice to what I have said. Some of you travail in Birth for their poor Souls, that Christ may be formed in them. If you have any thing to do for them, now is your Time; if you have any Instructions to bequeath them,—any Prayers to offer up for them, you will not neglect this Opportunity; and as you are acquainted with the pleasant Paths of Truth, you will have no greater Pleasure than to see your Children walking in them.

A M E N.

